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As is usual in the USSR, doctors who are Party members receive the best in privileges, assignments, etc. However, only a small percentage of doctors are Party members.

2.

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There are two classes of dentists in the USSR: (a) Those with two years of training and, (b) those with five years of training.

A class (a) dentist was more like a nurse, filling and pulling teeth in addition to regular treatment. They received from 240 to 250 rubles a month. The class (b) dentist had a complete training in all advanced dentistry, oral surgery and mouth hygiene. Their pay was the same as a doctor. However, doctors and dentists, although paid Government employees, were not considered to be in the same status. A doctor was felt to be more important and was more respected. Neither, however, received any privileges over the other.

As among doctors, the percentage of dentists who were Party members was small.

3.

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All members of the medical profession received the same five year political training in school. [] class at the University totaled about 400. This was broken down into small cells for better indoctrination and observation. There was no special training for doctors.

One is examined politically, one gives the answers expected, even though one might think differently. To do otherwise meant professional suicide as well as a possible prison sentence. However, it is possible to pass the examination without being overly active politically.

4.

The average work day for a doctor is seven hours, which comprised a "shift". There was no lunch hour. Most doctors would work two and even three "shifts" to make more money. Some even took additional jobs outside of the clinic.

5.

The average person becomes a doctor because of a personal interest in medicine and its counterparts []

Usually, the person who wants to become a doctor is serious minded and has a desire to serve humanity. Anyone who can pass the examinations can become a doctor if he is acceptable politically.

There are certainly very few rewards and no financial gains in being a doctor in the USSR.

6.

[] in school in Georgia no persons, as a class, were excluded from the medical profession. Most of the students at the University were Georgians.

From about 1930 on in Georgia, student applicants were not being asked if their parents were kulaks or of the aristocracy. However, if one were informed on, and it was determined that there was a question as to one's background, one was

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excluded.

Relatives of political prisoners were usually excluded completely. If there was any question of one's political background or activity one was excluded.

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7.

Doctors in the USSR are [redacted] human, as is everyone else. They would basically like financial gain and freedom from the Soviet restrictions. Next, however, although trained to serve the Government only, they have a deep feeling to serve mankind. Probably appeals to doctors for cooperation as a whole, however, would best be made on the basis of freedom to practice as they see fit, free from Government interference. Propaganda based on the Hippocratic oath could not, [redacted] fail.

In Georgia, doctors as well as others, have a deep rooted feeling of independence and freedom. Appeals for cooperation on the basis of these would be very effective in that area. [redacted]

8

A doctor in the USSR has no freedom to practice as he sees fit. He is under steady control. His movements and activities are always under scrutiny. He is distrusted by the bosses and political leaders. For example, if a doctor gives a certificate permitting a patient to be absent from work he is called upon time and again to explain why. His diagnoses are questioned by officials who have no medical knowledge.

Again, if a doctor is performing surgery, a Government official will observe, interfere and criticize.

A doctor can never get all of the supplies and equipment he wants and needs. He takes what is sent to him. His complaints are either ignored or regarded with suspicion. They can lead to arrest. He therefore learns to accept the situation. He does not accept it philosophically but rather covers his resentment for his own safety.

9

The average doctor wants very much to improve his services. He is limited, however, and has little opportunity to do so. There is little or no exchange of ideas except in the larger cities. Some very good publications are put out from time to time by the Ministry of Health but in the small towns and villages it is hard to take advantage of new methods and equipment because of local interference by ignorant bosses.

10

[redacted] doctors from countries that are now Soviet Satellites
[redacted] regarded Soviet medicine as equal to their own. [redacted]

11

[redacted] doctors from the Satellite countries are now controlled as [redacted] in the Soviet Union, both politically and professionally. However, being nationals of former independent countries [redacted] they retain their feeling of independence and deeply resent the Soviet system.

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